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*Observations of Comet b, 1896, by Messrs. HUSSEY and AITKEN.*

The observation of Professor HUSSEY gave the position April 16.6896 G. M. T.; R. A.  $3^h 38^m 20^s.6$ ; Decl.  $+18^\circ 19' 32''$ , and showed the comet to be moving very slowly westward, but northward at the rate of two and a half degrees daily. These facts were telegraphed at 11.03 P. M. to Harvard College Observatory, to the Students' Observatory, University of California, and to the press.

Telegram sent Friday, April 17th, at  $10^h 45^m$  P. M. (translation): To H. C. O.—Comet SWIFT observed by HUSSEY, April 17.6710 G. M. T.; R. A.  $3^h 37^m 46^s.3$ ; Decl.  $+20^\circ 55' 50''$ . A re-reduction of the observations the next morning showed that for  $46^s.3$  we should put  $46^s.1$ . This correction was sent to the H. C. O. on Saturday, April 18th, at  $11^h 12^m$  A. M. The correct position had been sent to Berkeley. April 18th was cloudy.

Telegram sent Sunday, April 19th, at  $10^h 1^m$  P. M. (translation): To H. C. O.—Comet SWIFT observed by AITKEN, April 19.6691 G. M. T.; R. A.  $3^h 35^m 42^s.0$ ; Decl.  $+26^\circ 19' 26''$ .

Telegram sent Monday, April 20th, at  $12^h 30^m$  P. M. (translation): To H. C. O.—

*Elements and Ephemeris of Comet b, 1896 (SWIFT), computed by ROBERT G. AITKEN (col. I).\**

I.	II.
T = 1896 April 17.79 G. M. T.	April 17.65.
$\omega = 2^\circ 14'$	$1^\circ 45'$
$\Omega = 177 \ 58$	$178 \ 16$
$i = 56 \ 0$	$55 \ 35$
$q = 0.5645$	$0.5663$

The foregoing elements are from observations by Professor HUSSEY (April 16–17) and Professor AITKEN (April 19). (O–C)  $\Delta\lambda \cos \beta = -5''.0$ ;  $\Delta\beta = -4''.0$ .

*Ephemeris.*

Greenwich Date.	R. A.	N. P. D.	Brightness.
April 20.5 . .	$3^h 33^m.9$	$61^\circ 14'$	1.20
April 24.5 . .	$3 \ 23 \ .7$	$50 \ 31$	. . . .
April 28.5 . .	$3 \ 7 \ .6$	$41 \ 16$	. . . .
May 2.5 . .	$2 \ 46 \ .0$	$33 \ 58$	0.70

\* Printed in the *Science Observer Circular*, No. 112, of April 21, 1896.

Telegram sent to H. C. O., Monday, April 20th, at 5<sup>h</sup> 0<sup>m</sup> P.M. (translation): The orbit presents some resemblance to that of the first comet of 1822.

Telegram received from Berkeley, Monday, April 20th, at 10<sup>h</sup> 20<sup>m</sup> P. M. (translation):

*Elements of Comet b, 1896 (SWIFT), computed by A. O. LEUSCHNER and F. H. SEARES.\**

[The elements as received are given in column II above, for ready comparison with those of Professor AITKEN.]

#### THE USE OF THE SCIENCE OBSERVER CODE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

A letter just received from Professor KREUTZ, of Kiel, gives the following particulars regarding the use of the Science Observer code in the transmission of astronomical telegrams to and from the Central Bureau of Astronomical Telegrams, at Kiel:

"Telegrams from America are received by the S. O. code. Telegrams from Kiel to America, Africa, Australia, and Madras are also sent by the S. O. code. On the Continent of Europe a number-code is employed, which has worked extremely well. Five figures (as 52687) are accepted in European telegraph offices as one word. On the Atlantic cables, three figures count as one word, while throughout the United States each figure is so counted. An experience of several years has shown the number-code to be entirely satisfactory throughout the Continent, and the S. O. code is seldom or never employed."

The number-code used in Europe was explained in No. 49 of these *Publications*. It cannot be employed in the United States, on account of the expense.

E. S. H.

1896, April 4.

#### COMET TELEGRAMS IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.—EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF MR. TEBBUTT'S OBSERVATORY FOR 1895.

"The telegrams announcing the discoveries of these comets, (the bright comets discovered by PERRINE† and BROOKS‡) were received, respectively, on November 19th and 26th, with the respective motions for the 17th and 21st, but without any indication of the direction of motion.

\* Printed in the *Astronomical Journal*, No. 373, of April 30, 1896.

† Comet c, '95, discovered November 18.1, G. M. T., at Mt. Hamilton.

‡ Comet d, '95, discovered November 21.8, G. M. T., at Geneva, N. Y.